Amended Patent Claims

1. (original) A method of producing high porous metallic molded bodies with the following process steps:

a metal powder used as the starting material is mixed with a place holder,

from the mixture a green body is pressed,

the green body is subjected to a conventional mechanical machining,

the place holder material is removed thermally from the green body in air or under vacuum or under a protective gas,

the green body is sintered to the molded body.

2. (original) The method according to preceding claim 1 in which carbamide, biuret, melamine, melamine resin, ammonium carbonate or ammoniumbi carbonate is used as the place holder.

3. (presently amended) The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims 1 to 2~~ claim 1, in which the place holder is removed at a temperature below 300°C, especially below 105°C and especially advantageously below 70°C.

4. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, in which stainless steel 1.4404 (316L) or titanium is used as the metallic starting powder.

5. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, in which the molded body is produced by sawing, boring, turning, milling or grinding in the green state to close to its final contour.

6. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of the preceding claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, in which the sintering is carried out in a bed of ceramic balls.

7. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, in which the molded body following sintering is trovalized or ground smooth.